

VISIT...

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A Verb for Herb

BY MARIA FLEMING

ILLUSTRATED BY KELLY KENNEDY





Herb was bored.
Herb was blue.
He sighed to himself,
“There’s nothing to do.”



What is a verb?

Most verbs are action words. They tell you what someone or something does. *Walk, shout, fly, listen, and sleep* are all action verbs. Can you think of others?

Along came a fairy.
She said, "Listen, Herb.
There's plenty to do.
All you need is a verb."



Then she opened a sack,
and out some verbs flew.
“Pick one,” she said.
“Better yet, pick a few.”



Some verbs are called helping verbs. They help the main verb describe the action:

He *could* run.

Run is the main verb.
Could is a helping verb.

The fairy was right!
Herb could do anything.
He could run. He could jump.



There are 23 helping verbs.
They always appear with
another verb. Try using some
in sentences.

am	are	be	been
being	can	could	did
do	does	had	has
have	is	may	might
must	shall	should	was
were	will	would	

He could dance.
He could sing.



He could swing, hit, slide,
score a home run,



ride a bike, climb a tree,
juggle fruit just for fun.



Wow,
you're tiny!

He could learn magic.
He could grow. He could shrink,



pull rabbits from hats,
disappear in a wink.



He could read, write, dream,
imagine, explore,



swim, cook, paint,
and much, much more.



Not all verbs are action words.
Some verbs show a condition.
These are called linking verbs.
They link the subject of a sentence
to another noun or to an adjective:

Verbs are great.
I am tired.

“Wow!” said Herb.
“Verbs are great!
But I am tired,
and it is late.”



Here are some other linking verbs. Can you use them in sentences?

am	appear	are	be
been	being	feel	
is	look	seem	
sound	was	were	

Then Herb asked the fairy
as she packed up her sack,
“If I get bored again,
will you come back?”



“Dear boy,” she chuckled.
“You don’t need a fairy.
You can find verbs galore
in the dictionary.”



Quick! How many verbs can you think of in one minute? Make a list.

“So remember, next time you need a distraction just think of some verbs—you’ll be ready for action.”



As Herb fell asleep
that night in his bed,
visions of verbs
danced in his head.

Let's Review

Verbs

A *verb* is a word that shows an action or a condition.

-  Many verbs are action words. They describe what someone or something does. *Climb, juggle, and swim* are all action verbs. Remember, some action verbs describe activities you can't really see or hear. *Learn, imagine, and find* are all action verbs, too.
-  Some verbs help the main verb describe the action. These are called helping verbs. *Could* and *will* are examples of helping verbs: *He **could** read. I **will** come back.*
-  Some verbs are not action words. A linking verb describes a condition. *Was* and *is* are examples of linking verbs: *Herb **was** bored. It **is** late.*
-  How important are verbs? Just try writing a sentence without one! You cannot write a sentence without a verb. *Verbs great!* makes no sense. *Verbs **are** great!* makes sense because it includes the verb *are*.





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ISBN: 0-439-45817-X

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Try This!

Would you rather read a good book or kick a soccer ball around? Make a list of action words that describe your favorite activities. Then compare lists with a friend. What hobbies do you have in common? It might be time to plan an action-packed day together!

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We're Going on a Verb Hunt: Can you find the 14 verbs in this paragraph? Look for action verbs, linking verbs, and helping verbs. Underline each verb you see. Then find the verbs in the word search puzzle. Answers can go across, down, or on a diagonal.



If you are bored, go on a Verb Vacation. Our expert tour guides will lead you all around beautiful Verb Village. Here you can find plenty of action—just drive around town in one of our Action Verb Autos, or see the sights from the Helping Verb Helicopter. You might even swim in the cool waters of Linking Verb Lake. And when it is time to leave, be sure to take home a souvenir dictionary as our free gift!



Herb was bored.
Herb was blue.
He sighed to himself,
“There’s nothing to do.”

Grammar Tales

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A

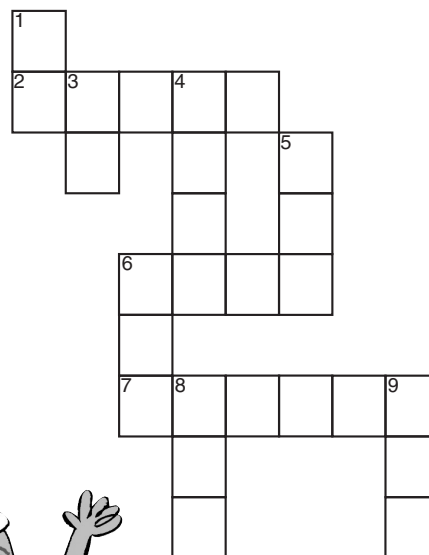


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Along came a fairy.
She said, "Listen, Herb.
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All you need is a verb."

B



19

Help Wanted! Choose a helping verb from the box to complete each sentence. Then write your answers in the crossword puzzle.

Across

2. "Next, I think I _____ learn how to juggle," Herb said.
6. Visions of verbs _____ dancing in Herb's head as he fell asleep.
7. "If you need a verb, you _____ look one up in the dictionary," the fairy told Herb.

Down

1. "Now that I have verbs, I _____ going to run in the school race," Herb announced.
3. "A fairy _____ flying through the window right now!" Herb cried.
4. "I _____ always wanted to learn magic," Herb said.
5. "These verbs sure _____ keeping me busy!" Herb thought.
6. Herb _____ feeling bored when the fairy arrived.
8. Herb _____ never seen a fairy before.
9. "I _____ need a verb," Herb thought.

did
am
are
might

should
were
was

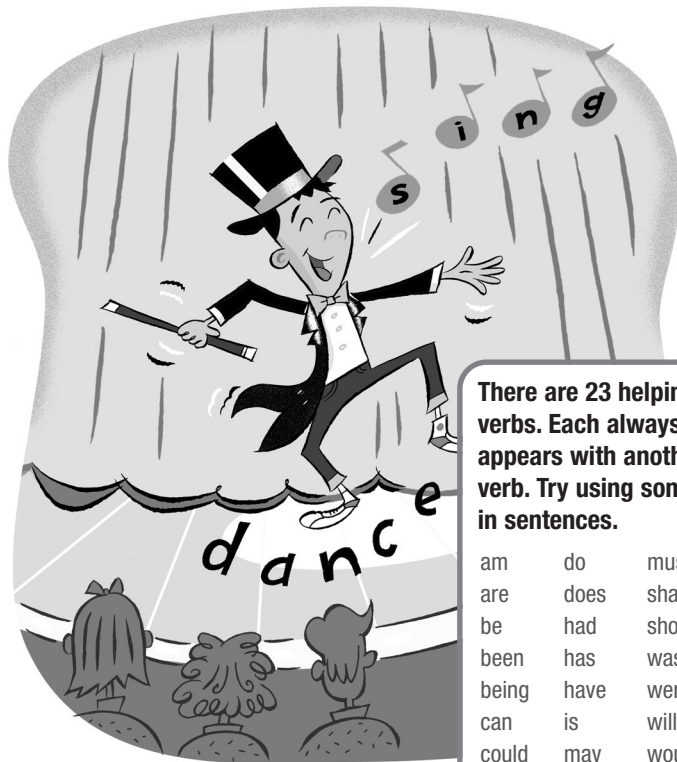
is
have
had



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and out some verbs flew.
"Pick one," she said.
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There are 23 helping verbs. Each always appears with another verb. Try using some in sentences.

am	do	must
are	does	shall
be	had	should
been	has	was
being	have	were
can	is	will
could	may	would
did	might	

He could dance.
He could sing.



Some verbs are called **helping verbs**. They help the main verb describe the action:

He *could* run.

Run is the main verb. *Could* is a helping verb.

The fairy was right!
Herb could do anything.
He could run. He could jump.

4

Let's Review: Verbs

A verb is a word that shows an action or a condition.

- ★ Many verbs are action words. They describe what someone or something does. *Climb, juggle, and swim* are all action verbs. Remember, some action verbs describe activities you can't really see or hear. *Learn, imagine, and find* are all action verbs, too.
- ★ Some verbs help the main verb describe the action. These are called helping verbs. *Could* and *will* are examples of helping verbs: *He **could** read. I **will** come back.*
- ★ Some verbs are not action words. A linking verb describes a condition. *Was* and *is* are examples of linking verbs: *Herb **was** bored. It **is** late.*
- ★ How important are verbs? Just try writing a sentence without one! You cannot write a sentence without a verb. *Verbs great!* makes no sense. *Verbs **are** great!* makes sense because it includes the verb *are*.

C

17



He could swing, hit, slide,
score a home run,

6



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"So remember, next time you need a distraction just think of some verbs — you'll be ready for action!"

D

15



"Dear boy," she chuckled,
"you don't need a fairy.
You can find verbs galore
in the dictionary."

14



ride a bike, climb a tree,
and juggle fruit just for fun.

7



"Wow!" said Herb.
"Verbs are great!
But I am tired,
and it is late."

12



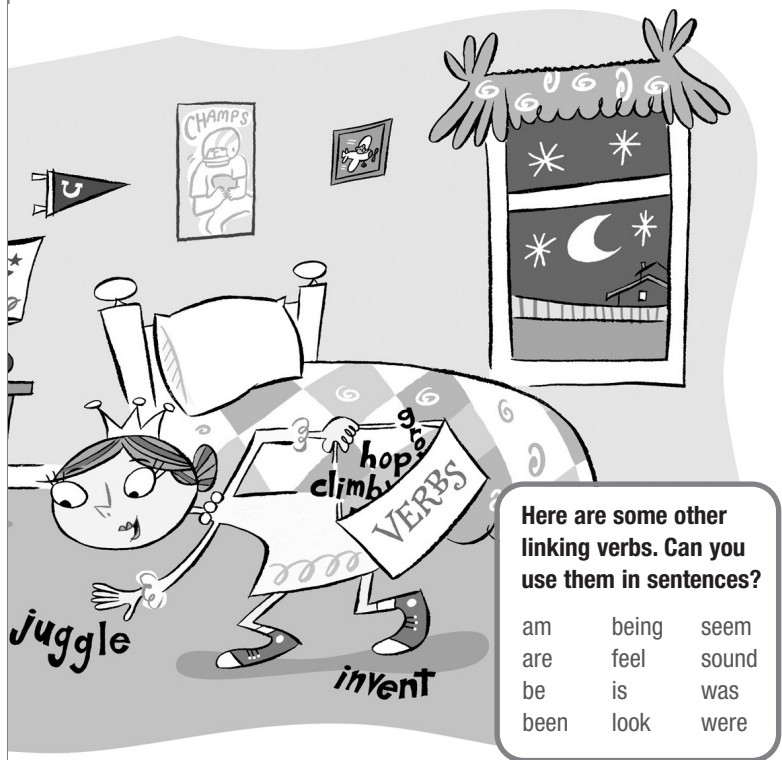
pull rabbits from hats,
and disappear in a wink.

9



He could learn magic.
He could grow. He could shrink,

8



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linking verbs. Can you
use them in sentences?

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are	feel	sound
be	is	was
been	look	were

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as she packed up her sack,
"If I get bored again,
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E

13



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F

11